(b) whether the bureau of Indian Standards has revealed that most of the samples of packaged water bottles failed the drinking water standards set by it;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to enforce compulsory ISI mark on each packaged water bottle being sold in the markets; and

(d) the details of other steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Packaged Drinking Water in bottles/jars with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification (ISI Mark) are generally not unhygienic.

(b) Out of 3061 samples of Packaged Water tested by BIS during the period 01-12-2008 to 30-11-2009, 824 samples failed.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already brought Packaged Drinking Water under mandatory certification of BIS under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. Action in cases of violation of the PFA Rules, 1955 is taken against the offenders by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned.

(d) BIS on its part ensures the quality of Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licensees through a well defined certification scheme wherein visits are made to the licensees' premises, samples are drawn from factory and market to check conformity of the product to the relevant Indian Standard. In cases of deviation from the prescribed standard, action is taken as per the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Creation of strategic reserve of wheat and rice

3290. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to ban futures trading of almost all farm products and to create a strategic reserve of wheat and rice to control spiralling commodity prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to create a strategic reserve of pulses to check its prices; and

(d) if so, the details of strategies formulated to ensure ban on futures trading on almost all farm products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. The forward trading in a commodity is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The futures market gives price signals for future periods of time based on the most likely supply

and demand situation at those points of time and has been observed not to lead to price rise. An Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures market was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities in its report submitted in April 2008 did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities.

In order to ensure food security in the country, to keep the prices under check and to maintain adequate supplies of food grains for Targeted Public Distribution System, other welfare scheme, etc., it has been decided by the Government that a strategic reserve consisting of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and 20 lakh tonnes of rice will be maintained by Food Corporation of India.

(c) India has always been a chronic net importer of pulses due to the mismatch between domestic supply and demand for pulses. A reserve stock of pulses is not contemplated in view of its limited availability.

(d) In view of the answers (a) and (b) above, there is no proposal to ban futures trading in farm products group as of now.

Adulteration in toor and batri dal

3291. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 'toor dal' (Pigeon Peas) is being adulterated with lathyrus sativas (kesari gram or kesari dal) and batri dal by miscreants in the market;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken against such miscreants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No such report has been received by the Government.

The Rule 44 (A) of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 provide that no person in any State shall, with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf, sell or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of the sale, under any description or for use as an ingredient in the preparation of any article of food intended for sale - Kesari gram (lathyrus salivus) and its products, Kesari dal and its products, Kesari dal flour and its products and mixture of Kesari dal and Bengal gram dal or any other dal.